

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**In the Claims:**

1-8. (CANCELED).

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for performing a filling sequence in a contrast media injector system having a fill tube coupling a syringe to ~~[[a]]~~ contrast media to fill the syringe with a desired fill volume of contrast media, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

drawing contrast media into the syringe through the fill tube at a first fill rate;

expelling substantially all air from the fill tube, wherein at least some of the contrast media is expelled through the fill tube during the expelling;

thereafter, filling the syringe at a first ~~second~~ fill rate to fill the syringe with the desired fill volume of contrast media, wherein the second fill rate is ~~wherein aeration of the contrast media is prevented, said first fill rate being faster than a second~~ the first ~~fill rate that is a maximum fill rate if air is not previously expelled from the fill tube.~~

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 9 wherein the ~~step of expelling includes the steps of:~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ drawing comprises drawing a first amount of contrast media into the syringe~~[[;]], and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ the expelling comprises expelling substantially all of the first amount of contrast media out of the syringe and fill tube.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~step of expelling includes~~ comprises expelling substantially all air from the syringe.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for changing contrast media containers during a syringe filling sequence, the method ~~comprising the steps of:~~

filling a syringe at at least one of a first fill rate and a second fill rate through a fill tube

coupled between the syringe and a first contrast container;

~~pausing the syringe filling sequence of a syringe when [[a]] the~~ first contrast container is substantially emptied;

replacing the first contrast container with a second contrast container;

coupling the fill tube between the syringe and the second contrast container;

expelling substantially all air from ~~[[a]] the~~ fill tube coupled between the syringe and the second contrast container, wherein at least some of the contrast media is expelled from the syringe, through the fill tube, and into the second contrast container during the expelling; and

thereafter, resuming filling the syringe from the second contrast container at ~~a first the~~ second fill rate ~~wherein aeration of the contrast media is prevented, said first fill rate being faster than a second fill rate that is a maximum fill rate if air is not previously expelled from the fill tube~~ that is faster than the first fill rate.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 12 wherein the ~~step of expelling further includes the step of~~ comprises:

expelling a portion of contrast media that was acquired from the first contrast container out of [[in]] the syringe out of through the fill tube and into the second contrast container.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 12, wherein the ~~step of expelling further includes~~ comprises expelling substantially all air from the syringe.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~step of expelling is performed by [[said]] the~~ contrast media injector automatically under ~~[[the]] control of control circuitry of the injector.~~

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~step of filling is performed by [[said]] the~~ contrast media injector automatically under ~~[[the]] control of control circuitry of the injector.~~

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~steps of~~ expelling and the filling are performed by ~~[[said]]~~ the contrast media injector automatically under ~~[[the]]~~ control of control circuitry of the injector.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operation for a contrast media injector system, the method comprising:

drawing medical fluid into a syringe of a contrast media injector system at a first fill rate;

after the drawing, ~~determining if expulsion of~~ expelling at least some of the medical fluid from the syringe has ~~occurred~~; and

~~after the determining, thereafter,~~ filling the syringe, ~~wherein the filling occurs at the first fill rate if the determining results in a determination that at least some of the medical fluid has not been expelled from the syringe, and wherein the filling occurs at a second fill rate that is faster than the first fill rate if the determining results in a determination that at least some of the medical fluid has been expelled from the syringe~~ wherein the drawing and the filling are automated and performed in accordance with programming of the contrast media injector system.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the first fill rate is a rate sufficient to avoid aeration of the medical fluid.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the drawing comprises drawing at least 20 ml of the medical fluid into the syringe.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the drawing comprises drawing medical fluid through a fill tube and into the syringe.

22. (CANCELED).

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 18, wherein the filling comprises filling

the syringe with a preprogrammed volume of the medical fluid.

24. (CANCELED).

25. (NEW) The method of claim 9, wherein the syringe is oriented such that a discharge tip of the syringe is positioned above a barrel of the syringe during the drawing, the expelling, and the filling.

26. (NEW) The method of claim 12, wherein the syringe is oriented such that a discharge tip of the syringe is positioned above a barrel of the syringe during the filling, the expelling, and the resuming.

27. (NEW) The method of claim 18, wherein the syringe is oriented such that a discharge tip of the syringe is positioned above a barrel of the syringe during the drawing, the expelling, and the filling.

28. (NEW) The method of claim 9, wherein both air and contrast media are expelled through a discharge tip of the syringe during the expelling.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 12, wherein both air and contrast media are expelled through a discharge tip of the syringe during the expelling.

30. (NEW) The method of claim 18, wherein both air and contrast media are expelled through a discharge tip of the syringe during the expelling.

31. (NEW) The method of claim 27, wherein both air and contrast media are expelled through a discharge tip of the syringe during the expelling.

32. (NEW) A method of operation for a contrast media injector system, the method comprising:

drawing an initial volume of medical fluid into a syringe of a contrast media injector system at a first fill rate;

after the drawing, expelling at least some of the medical fluid from the syringe; and  
thereafter, filling the syringe at a second fill rate that is faster than the first fill rate, wherein a total volume of medical fluid in the syringe after the filling is greater than the initial volume.

33. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the first fill rate is a rate sufficient to avoid aeration of the medical fluid.

34. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the drawing comprises drawing at least 20 ml of the medical fluid into the syringe.

35. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the drawing comprises drawing medical fluid through a fill tube and into the syringe.

36. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the syringe is oriented such that a discharge tip of the syringe is positioned above a barrel of the syringe during the drawing, the expelling, and the filling.

37. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein both air and contrast media are expelled through a discharge tip of the syringe during the expelling.